

NWS Medford Virtual Briefing

Significant Winter Weather Today through Saturday
12/08/2022



Winter Storm Thu-Sat Current Hazards

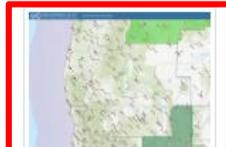


Confidence is increasing on an impactful winter weather storm.

View the hazards in detail at
The bottom of our webpage



[Forecast Discussion](#)



[Observations/Hazards](#)



[Climate Graphs](#)

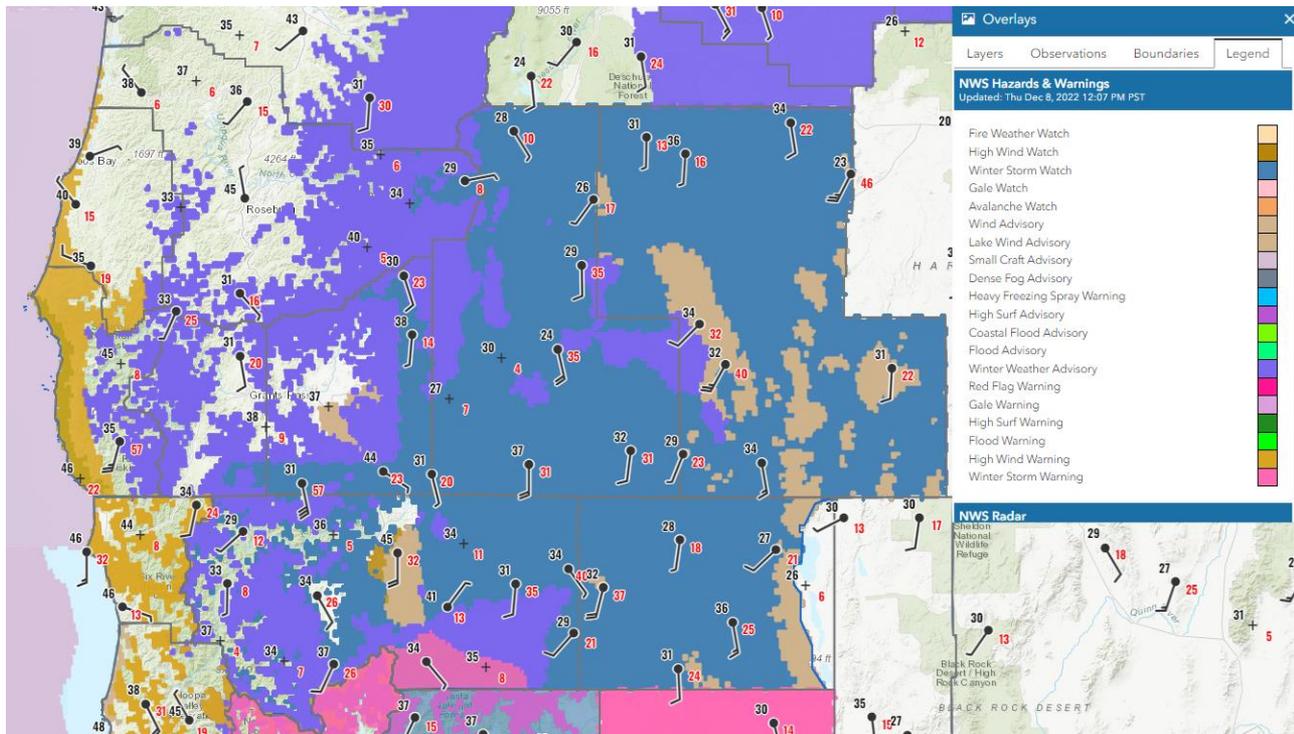


[Marine](#)



Winter Storm Watch

High Wind Watch



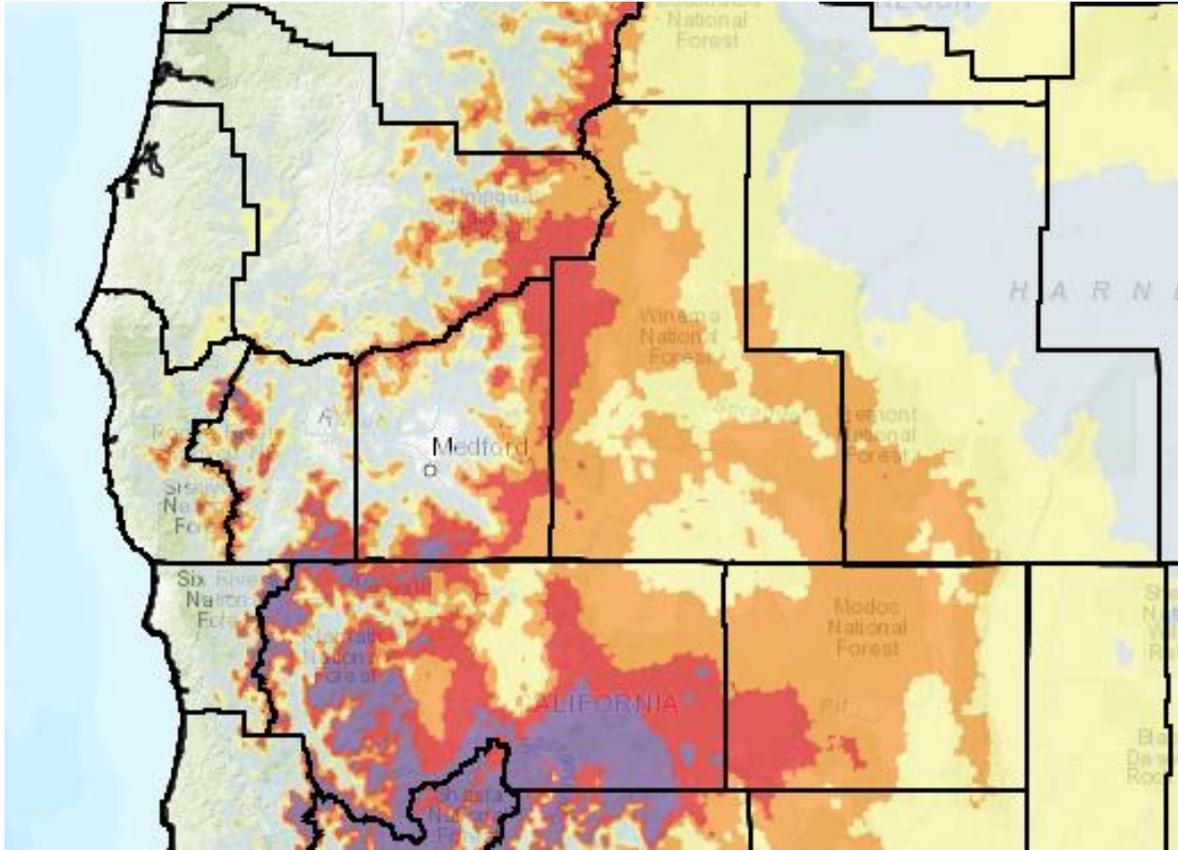
Key Points



- A 1-2 punch will impact the region today into Saturday. Friday's storm will have more impact.
- Significant winter weather impacts expected in northern California Friday night into Saturday.
- Moderate winter weather impacts from snowfall and blowing snow expected elsewhere.
- High winds over high terrain, at the coast, Shasta Valley, and portions of the East Side.

Winter Weather Severity Index- Overall Impacts

Valid Time: Through Saturday (12/10/2022)



Potential Winter Storm Impacts	
Winter Weather Area Expect Winter Weather. • Winter driving conditions. Drive carefully.	
Minor Impacts Expect a few inconveniences to daily life. • Winter driving conditions. Use caution while driving.	
Moderate Impacts Expect disruptions to daily life. • Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving. • Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.	
Major Impacts Expect considerable disruptions to daily life. • Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Avoid travel if possible. • Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.	
Extreme Impacts Expect substantial disruptions to daily life. • Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. Travel is not advised. • Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur. • Life saving actions may be needed.	

Snow Levels



	Thursday	Friday	Friday night	Saturday	Saturday night
Oregon West Cascades	~ 2500 ft	1600 ft rising to 2600 ft	3300 ft to 4400 ft.	4000 ft falling to 3000 ft	2200 ft
Oregon East Cascades	Valley floors	Valley floors	Valley floors	4600 ft	Valley floors
Northern California	~ 2900 ft	1700 ft rising to 2400 ft	2600 ft to 3000 ft.	~ 3600 ft.	~ 2600 ft

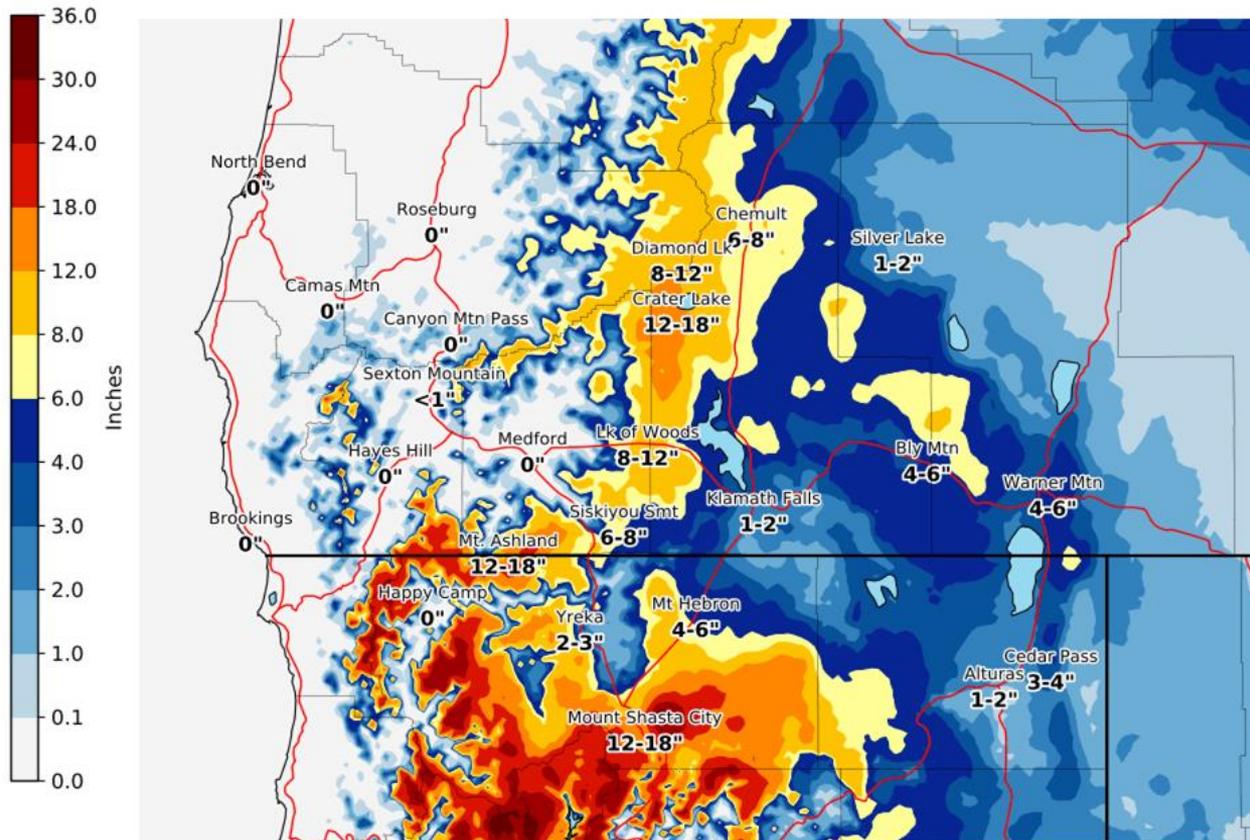
- The heaviest snow will be Friday night into Saturday.
- Snow levels rise behind the warm front on Friday night.
- Snow levels then fall behind the cold front Saturday evening and Saturday night.

Official Snowfall Forecast

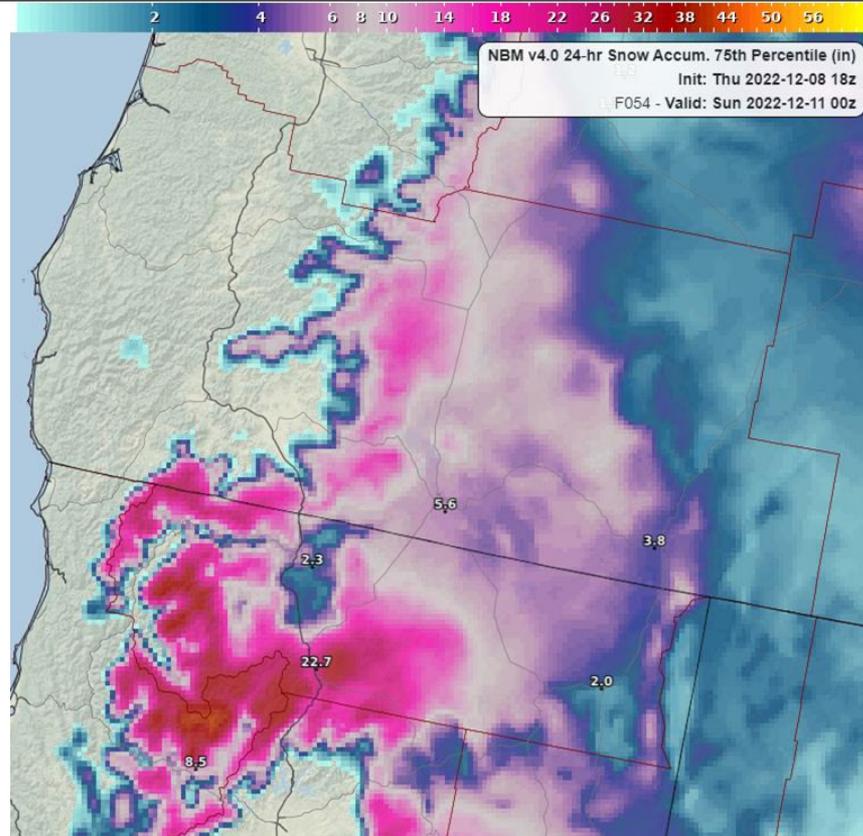
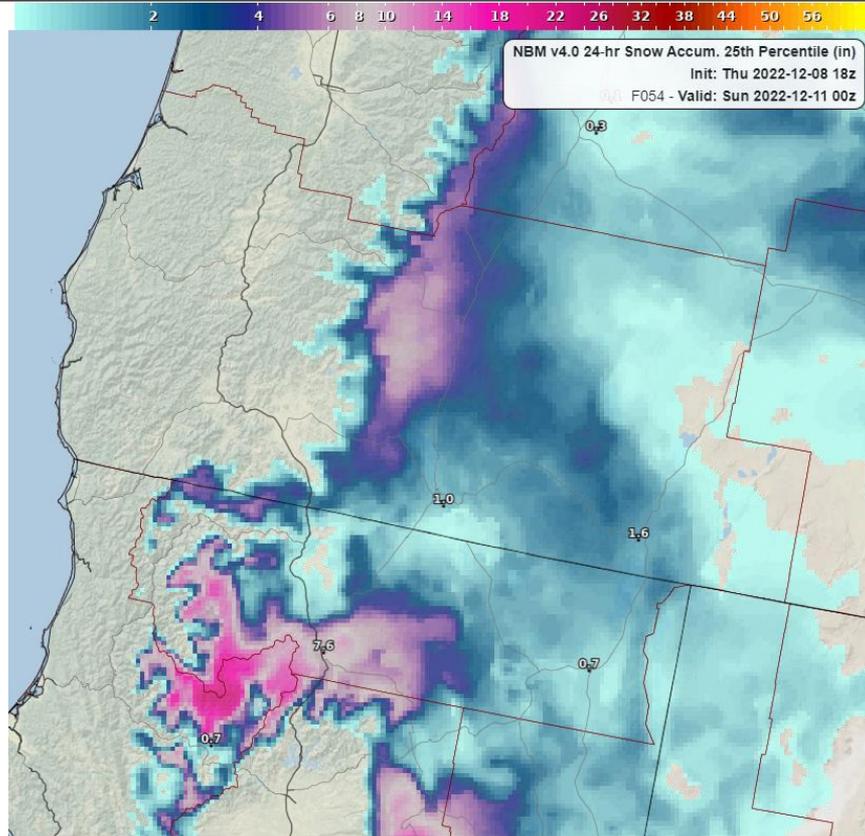
Valid Time: 4pm Friday through 4pm Saturday.



These forecast ranges represent our best guess at the upcoming snowfall amounts expected Friday evening through Saturday evening

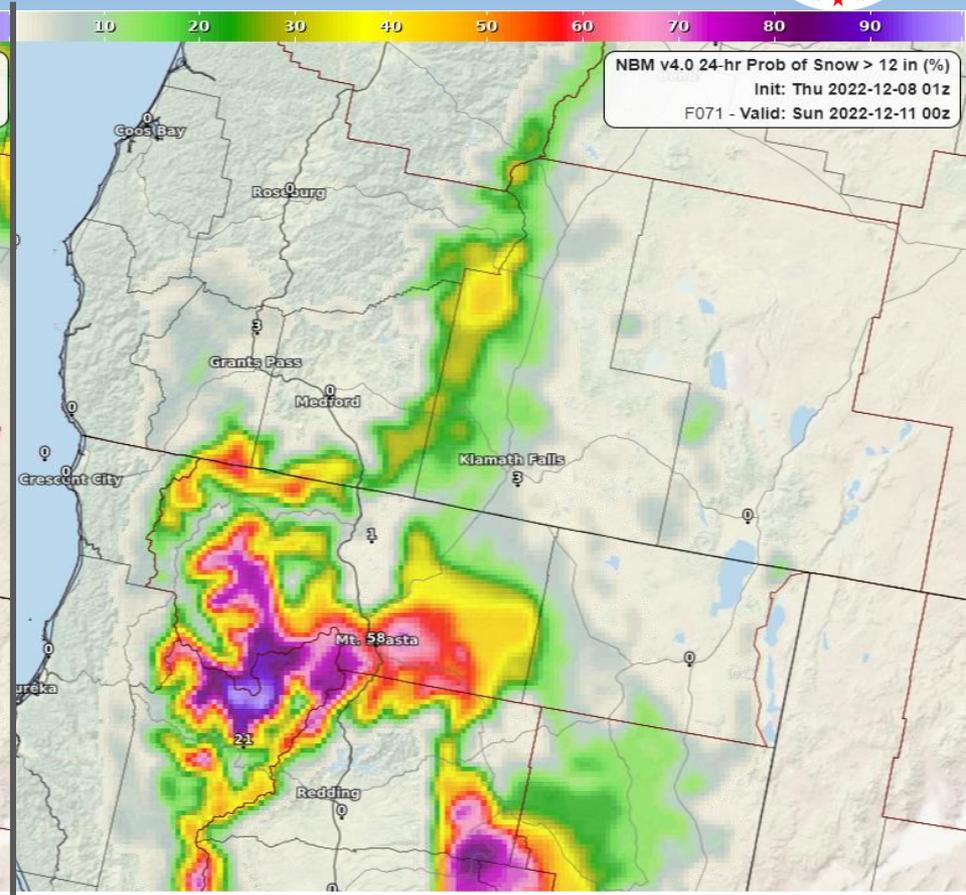
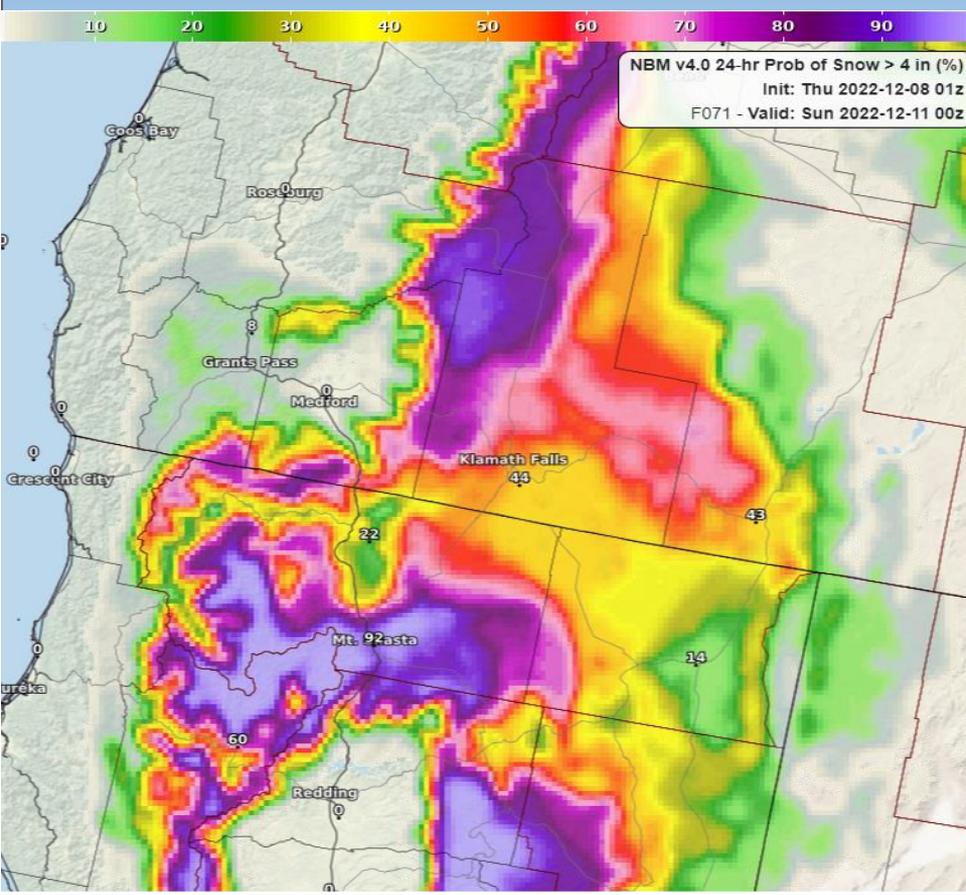


Reasonable “Best” and “Worst” Case Scenarios Friday Afternoon through Saturday Afternoon



Snowfall Probability Forecast

Valid Time: 4pm Friday through 4pm Saturday.



Heavy snow rates



Potential for 1" per hour snowfall:

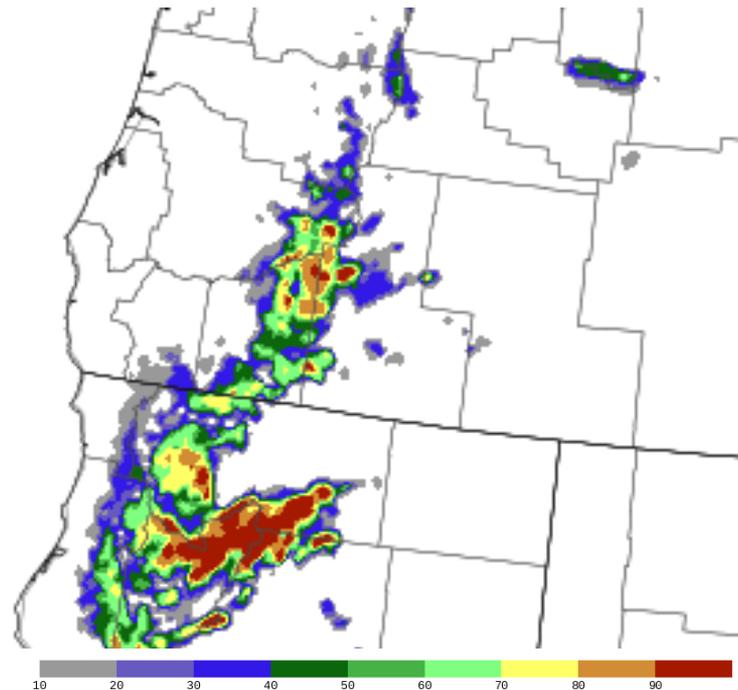
Today (Thursday)

- Cascades, Siskiyou: 2-6 PM
- Mt. Shasta area: 2-8 PM

Friday/Saturday

- Mt. Shasta area: 10 PM - 10 AM

Probability of 1 in/hr snowfall; 4 PM Thursday



Impacts



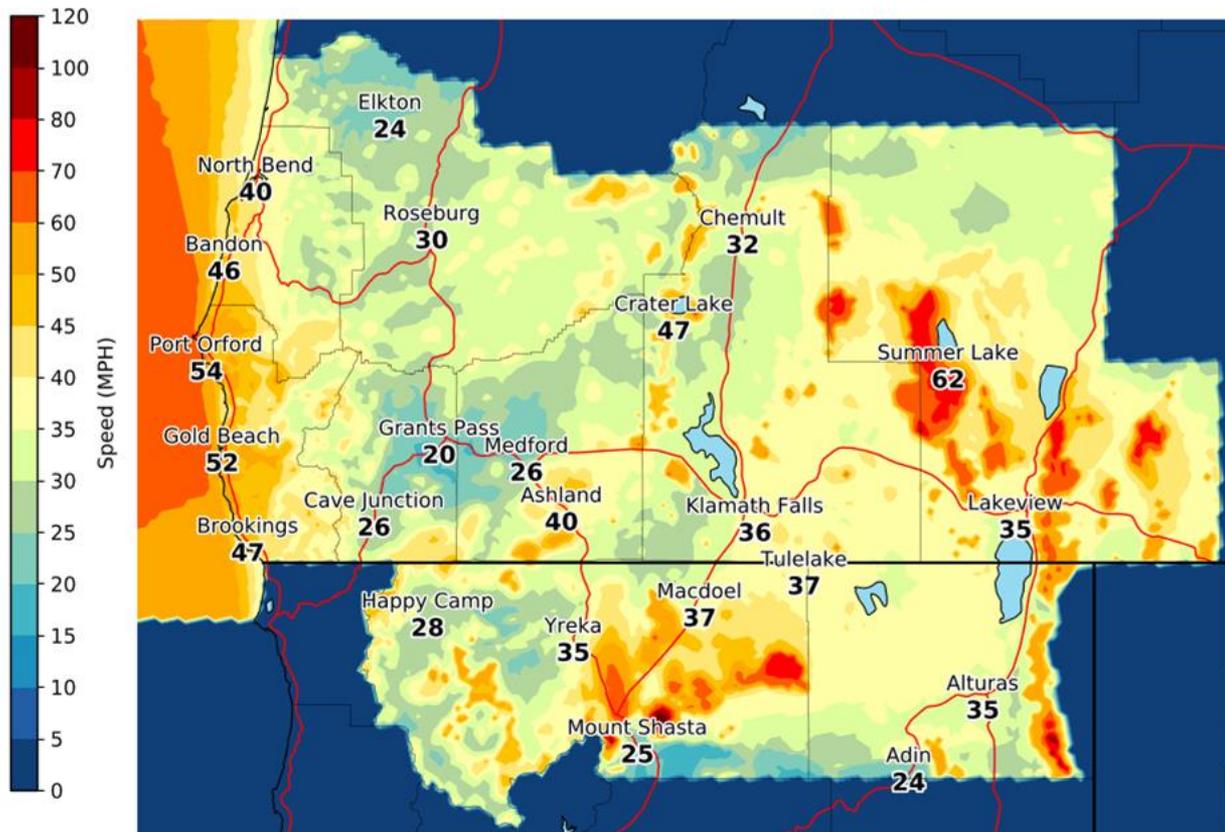
- Snowfall rates in excess of 1" an hour Friday night through Saturday morning.
- High winds could make driving difficult for higher profile vehicles. A few power outages may also occur, especially near the coast, Shasta Valley and portions of the East Side. Widespread power outages are not expected.
- Blowing snow could result in brief whiteout conditions east of the Cascades as strong winds mix with some snow accumulations.



Max Wind Gust Forecast

Valid Time: 4pm Friday through 10 am Saturday.

- Winds peak Friday afternoon & evening at the coast.
- Fri evening into Saturday morning east of Cascades.
- Winds likes this are observed once every 2 years around early December.



Marine/Coastal



- Storm force winds (> 55 mph), gusts up to 70 mph Friday afternoon/evening.
- Offshore seas very steep and hazardous 20-25 ft.
- Breaking surf 20 to 22 feet, particularly along more south facing shorelines, e.g. Brookings, Port Orford.



Dangerous High Surf

10 AM through 10 PM PST Friday
South of Cape Blanco

**Breaking wave heights of
20 to 25 feet are expected.**

Use **EXTREME** caution near the beach.
Keep a safe distance from the ocean.
Jetties, rocks, and logs in the surf zone are **NOT** safe!

National Weather Service - Medford, Oregon

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The image is a warning sign for dangerous high surf. It features a blue header with the text "Dangerous High Surf" and a smaller version of the National Weather Service logo. Below the header, the text specifies the time and location: "10 AM through 10 PM PST Friday South of Cape Blanco". The main warning is "Breaking wave heights of 20 to 25 feet are expected.", with "20 to 25 feet" in red. Below this, it advises to use "EXTREME" caution near the beach, keep a safe distance from the ocean, and notes that jetties, rocks, and logs in the surf zone are "NOT" safe. The sign has a background image of breaking waves. At the bottom, it identifies the National Weather Service - Medford, Oregon, and provides social media links for Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook.

Key Points - Snow



- The most impacted area will be Mt. Shasta City and the higher terrain in Siskiyou County Friday night through Saturday morning. This area is also at highest risk of seeing snowfall totals on the higher end of the forecast.
- Snow will also impact other areas within Oregon between 2500 and 3500 feet.
- A combination of existing and new snowfall, plus strong, south winds should result in blowing snow and reduced visibility across high terrain and the East Side.

Key Points Reviewed



- A 1-2 punch will impact the region today into Saturday. Friday's storm will have more impact.
- Significant winter weather impacts possible in northern California Friday night into Saturday.
- Moderate to minimal winter weather impacts from snowfall and blowing snow expected elsewhere.
- High winds at the coast, Shasta Valley and portions of the eastside.